

ACCESS *ai* PRESS

Your source for news, information and updates about Access Idaho subscription services

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TAX COMMISSION LAUNCHES FREE ONLINE TAX FILING SERVICES

Businesses now have an easier way to file taxes thanks to two new online services offered for free by the Idaho State Tax Commission. The interactive services are available through the Tax Commission's Web site at www2.state.id.us/tax/filing.htm.

One application allows businesses to report as well as pay Idaho sales and use tax. The other allows businesses to file income tax withholding via the Internet. Both applications replace the phone-based Telefile system, which ended Aug. 21.



Terry Carr, controller at Baird Oil Company, Boise, tested the new services for the Commission and couldn't be happier. "It will definitely speed up the filing process," said Carr. "It will eliminate the manual filing of the paper coupons. I see the new e-file of taxes as a very positive step forward for my company," added Carr.


The only equipment needed to file electronically is a computer with Internet access. Both applications allow users to access past e-filings for up to one year, print receipts containing filing information, file zero returns,

make adjustments, and file on behalf of multiple companies. Since most businesses usually file their sales and use tax and income tax withholding at the same time, each online service is linked to the other for convenience.

The new e-filing services also include online payment options for returns with tax due. "Tax payments can be made electronically using Visa/MasterCard or ACH debit through a secure payment server," said Gordon Alleman, Tax Automated Systems Manager for the Tax Commission. "And," he added,

"businesses that prefer paying with a paper check can still do so by printing a voucher off the Web application to send with their payment."




For more information about electronic filing, call the Tax Commission's electronic filing help desk at 332-6632 in the Boise area or toll free at 1-800-972-7660, ext. 6632. 

FREE LIEN SEARCH ENHANCED

After receiving many requests from subscribers like you, Access Idaho has added "status" to the free lien search results page. In addition to the lien number and debtors, the display now lists one of the following six conditions for each lien:

- Current
- Terminated
- Lapsed
- Lapsed-Active
- Inactive
- Released

This enhancement speeds research and eliminates the need to use the paid (Premium Search) area to check if a lien has been released. 

DON'T BE A COOKIE CUTTER

In computer talk, cookies are text-only messages consisting of short pieces of data that identify your browser with the information you have entered into an online application (i.e. lien searches, license renewals, trip permits, etc.). They enable you to move forward and backward (or navigate) within an application. Without cookies, you would have to re-enter data after hitting the back or forward keys.

If your browser software is set to allow cookies, a Web site can send its own cookie to you. Similarly, a Web site that sends a cookie to your computer can only access those cookies it has sent you. It cannot access cookies sent by other sites. While they can be stored on your computer, cookies cannot read your hard drive or spread viruses.




Cookies placed by Access Idaho do not store or include personal or credit card information. Nor are they used to track a user after a session or for any personal or statistical database. Access Idaho considers cookie data

private information and, depending on the application, is destroyed immediately after leaving an application or after a limited amount of time.

In addition to allowing easy navigation, cookies can act as virtual life preservers. For example, if your computer “crashes” or loses power during a data-intensive application, cookies can save the information you entered and return where you were before the interruption.

You can configure your browser to accept all cookies, reject all cookies, or notify you when a cookie is set. (Each browser is different, so check the “Help” menu of your browser to learn how to change your cookie preferences.) However, it’s best to accept all cookies when using Access Idaho applications.


For more information about cookies, visit www.accessidaho.org and click the “Privacy Policy” link at the bottom of the page; or call Access Idaho at 332-0102 (Boise area) or 877-443-3468 (toll free). 

INCREASE YOUR ACCESS-ABILITY

Useful Ideas for Subscribers



Lien searches are one of the most popular subscriber services Access Idaho provides. Here are a few general tips that can help you find the information you’re looking for faster:

- Unclick the “Article 9” box for general lien searches.
- Enter information into the “City” field to help you narrow a search, especially if you are searching for a common name like John Smith.
- If you are not sure of the best way to find the information you are looking for, use the free search first. When you know the lien numbers you are interested in, return to the premium search and find the details you need.
- For best printing results, choose the “Download document (TIFF format)” option. You will need a TIFF viewer, such as “Imaging for Windows®” (available on the Windows® install CD), in order to use this option. 

COMING SOON TO WWW.ACCESSIDAHO.ORG

Full-fee Commercial Vehicle Registration/Renewal
Beginning in September, businesses will be able to register and renew motorized commercial vehicles (trucks, tractors, truck tractors, busses, etc.) and trailers online. Whether your business uses one car or a fleet of trucks, this service will make it easier than ever to keep you on the road.



Send your ideas, hints or suggestions to rich@accessidaho.org for possible use in future newsletters.